

little man, not Distinguished in appearance, could talk no English, and his French, though spoken fluently, was quite unintelligible. On the other hand, Macaulay could* not speak German, and he spoke French without any facility, and with a very vile accent. It was comical to see the abundance of his matter struggling with his embarrass-ment in giving utterance to it, to hear the torrent of knowledge trying to force its way through the impediment of a limited acquaintance with the French language and the want of habit of conversing in it. But the struggle was of short duration. He began in French, but very soon could bear the restraint no longer, and broke into English, pouring forth his stores to the utterly unconscious and uncomprehending professor. This babel of a breakfast, at which it was impossible for seven people to converse in any common language, soon came to an end, and Ranke was evidently glad to go off to the State Paper Office, where he was working every day.¹

One naturally wonders whether William III was the subject which they had discussed.

The comparison between the histories of Macaulay and Ranke, suggested above, has often been made before.²

Carl von Noorden gave a series of lectures on the subject at Leipzig. He also published an article on the subject in

¹ Greville, *Memoirs*, Pt. II, vol. II, p. 203,

* Professor Paul Fred[^]ricq describes in *The Study of History In Germany and France* (Johns Hopkins University Studies, 8th Ser., v-vi, 1890), pp. 20-21, a seminar by Delbriick, at the University of

Berlin, which be
attended in 1881. In it Macaulay's introductory chapter
was compared
with the first chapter of Ranke's History of England. The
lecturer, * an
enthusiastic admirer of Ranke, pointed out* with
malicious satisfaction,
the faults of his English rival. I was reminded of the
curious articles by
Prof. A. Pierson, of Amsterdam, which appeared in the
Dutch review, Be
Gids, where the author, comparing Ranke's work with
Macaulay *s, clearly
brings out the superior Impartiality and good judgment of
the German
historian.' Professor Freckleton mentioned these articles
to Ranke. * He
was unacquainted with them and seemed flattered by the
judgment passed
upon his History of England, but he took up with spirit the
defense of
Macaulay.'